

NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION
INFORMATION LETTER

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**SURPLUS BEEF CANNERS MUST OPERATE UNDER
MODIFIED P. R. A.**

Division Administrator Armin W. Riley in reply to an inquiry from the Code Authority for the Canning Industry as to whether cannery workers under contracts with the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation may operate under the terms of the cannery code has replied as follows:

"The regular meat packers are now operating under a modification of the President's Reemployment Agreement for the meat packing industry, which has been further modified for work done in connection with the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation.

"In view of the fact that the canning of meat is not included in the cannery code and that meat cannery workers are following wage and hour provisions more stringent than those in the cannery code, I am unwilling to accede to your request."

The wages and hours provisions of the President's Reemployment Agreement as modified for the meat packing industry are as follows (for paragraphs 2, 3, 4, and 6 of the P. R. A.) :

(2) Not to work any accounting, clerical, banking, office, service, or sales employees (except outside salesmen) in any store, office, department, or establishment or in any other similar place or manner, for more than an average of 40 hours per week over a period of any month, and not to reduce the hours of any store or service operation to below 52 hours in any one week, unless such hours were less than 52 hours per week before July 1, 1933, and in the latter case not to reduce such hours at all.

(3) Not to employ any factory or mechanical worker or artisan more than a maximum week of 40 hours but with the right within the first 12 months' period following August 1, 1933, and within each 12 months' period thereafter to work a maximum week of 48 hours for not to exceed 8 weeks, with a tolerance of 10 per cent over 48 hours for not to exceed an additional 8 weeks; nor to employ a worker in excess of 10 hours in any one day.

(4) The maximum hours fixed in the foregoing paragraphs (2) and (3) shall not apply to employees in establishments employing not more than two persons in towns of less than 2,500 population (based on 1930 Federal census) which towns are not part of large trade area; nor to

(a) Employees in executive, managerial, supervisory, or technical capacities, nor to their immediate assistants.

(b) Employees exercising managerial functions who now receive more than \$35.00 per week.

(c) Employees on emergency maintenance or repair work including breakdowns; nor to very special cases where restrictions of hours of highly skilled workers on continuous processes would unavoidably reduce production, but in all such cases where maximum hours specified in paragraph (3) are exceeded at least time and one-third shall be paid for hours worked in excess of the maximum.

(d) Chauffeurs, watchmen, engineers, firemen, water tenders, or oilers who shall not be employed more than 44 hours in any one week.

(e) Livestock buyers and handlers who now receive more than \$35.00 per week.

(f) Employees engaged wholly or partially in performing the functions of wholesale or retail distribution (not including those employees engaged in manufacturing or production operations). Such employees shall not work more than 48 hours in any one week.

Minimum Wages.—(6) Not to pay any employees of the classes mentioned in paragraph (3) less than 42½ cents per hour in any city over 500,000 population; nor less than 40 cents per hour in any city of less than 500,000 population; provided that in the section south of and including Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky, Arkansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Arizona the minimum rate shall not be less than 35 cents per hour in cities of over 500,000 population; nor less than 30 cents per hour in cities of less than 500,000 population. For women engaged in light work such as packing small packages, wrapping cartons, packing sliced bacon, trimming, preparing sausage casings, linking sausage, and similar operations, the rate may be lower than above by not to exceed 5 cents per hour, provided that where females are engaged in the same type of work as males there shall be no discrimination as to rate.

It is agreed that this paragraph establishes a guaranteed minimum rate of pay regardless of whether the employee is compensated on the basis of a time rate or on a piecework performance.

The further modifications referred to by Division Administrator Riley (for paragraph 3 of the P. R. A.) follow. These modifications were originally granted on June 13 for a period of four weeks and extended successively to August 11 and September 10.

On recommendation of the Federal Surplus Relief Corporation, in order to further the emergency cattle buying and beef canning program for relief of the drought situation, and on account of the difficulty of obtaining and training additional employees to meet the emergency situation, the following provisions are added to the substitution for paragraph 3 of the President's Reemployment Agreement heretofore granted to the meat packing industry:

(a) Employees engaged in the processes hereinafter mentioned may be employed for a maximum week of not to exceed 53 hours for the 4 weeks immediately following the date of this modification, but not in excess of 10 hours in any one day. The hours of work hereby permitted in excess of 40 hours per week shall be in addition to the hours in excess of 40 per week permitted by the substitution heretofore granted.

(b) The following paragraph (a) is subject to the following conditions:

(i) It shall apply only with respect to employees engaged in the unloading, penning, driving and killing of cattle; the chilling and boning of the beef; the freezing (if necessary) and the canning of the meat; the preparation and handling of various beef by-products, such as hides, offal, casings, fat and bones; and the loading and unloading of product when it is necessary to transfer it from the killing plant to the canning plant where both operations are not conducted at the same plant; and any operations incidental to those specifically enumerated.

(ii) It shall apply only to those employees in the above mentioned processes whose services beyond the maximum hours heretofore permitted by the substitution are required by reason of the emergency cattle buying and beef canning program.

(iii) It shall not apply to any employer in a community in which there is a strike of employees engaged in operations within the meat packing industry.

(iv) At the request of the Administrator, employers shall render reports to the Administrator on the effect of this modification on hours, wages, employment and general conditions of employment within the meat packing industry.

FURTHER REGULATIONS ON POSTING OF LABOR PROVISIONS

Requirements more detailed than heretofore for the posting of labor provisions of codes of fair competition were announced September 4 by the National Recovery Administration.

The new requirements are that, in addition to labor provisions which employers heretofore had to post, they now must post also orders, interpretations, explanations or statements issued by the President or the Administrator as part of or in connection * * * with such code provisions.

This new order leaves unchanged all provisions of Order X-7, except Paragraph 1. That new paragraph reads in full as follows:

"Every person shall, in the manner hereinafter provided, make application for and display official copies of labor provisions for each code to which he is subject or may hereafter be subject. Such official copies of labor provisions (hereinafter referred to as official copies) will contain (a) the provisions of the code relating to hour of labor, rates of pay and other conditions of employment; such conditions, orders, interpretations, explanations or statements issued by the President or the Administrator as part of or in connection with any order approving such code or any amendment thereto so far as they relate to such provisions of the code; other interpretations, orders and explanations; all to such extent as NRA may in the case of each code deem to be advisable to effectuate the purposes of these rules and regulations. A separate application shall be made with respect to each code."

CANNED FOOD EXPORTS IN JULY

Exports of canned meats, fruits and vegetables showed slight general increases during July as compared with July, 1933, marked increases being reported in baked beans and pork and beans, peas, condensed milk, apples and applesauce, peaches, salmon and sardines. The monthly statistics as compiled by the Department of Commerce follow:

Articles	July, 1933		July, 1934	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned meats, total	1,198,891	\$280,126	1,232,151	\$405,082
Beef	110,698	25,920	92,103	27,722
Pork	948,622	228,132	900,778	346,516
Sausage	83,021	17,399	110,875	25,985
Other	56,550	8,075	38,395	4,859
Canned vegetables, total	3,325,423	300,540	3,528,537	358,523
Asparagus	2,377,087	239,133	2,091,953	233,366
Baked beans, and pork and beans	297,677	12,535	438,030	24,210
Corn	146,313	9,286	123,031	9,598
Peas	122,620	9,786	425,003	32,570
Soups	124,442	11,008	129,443	14,201
Tomatoes	116,370	6,879	88,817	6,364
Other	140,914	11,253	231,660	18,214
Condensed milk	329,587	38,008	1,261,348	133,205
Evaporated milk	3,305,437	201,600	3,277,676	201,208
Canned fruits, total	21,751,084	1,347,814	10,752,971	1,482,855
Apples and applesauce	1,065,191	30,687	1,893,516	76,304
Apricots	5,204,833	294,873	3,387,700	268,207
Berries, other	51,219	3,011	25,437	3,013
Cherries	114,697	11,102	92,485	9,618
Fruits for salad	3,343,016	307,056	3,300,470	338,955
Grapefruit	4,868,578	231,532	918,777	60,466
Loganberries	1,040,049	60,048	1,183,782	64,183
Peaches	2,088,900	123,982	4,350,210	313,927
Pears	1,624,868	94,127	1,231,887	90,918
Pineapple	2,242,500	167,800	2,006,191	216,885
Prunes	36,895	3,212	42,946	4,421
Other	60,729	4,715	60,504	5,898
Salmon	1,175,169	147,091	4,085,950	628,151
Sardines	2,080,472	97,761	2,407,750	136,897

AUGUST WEATHER

Temperatures during August continued abnormally high in the Midwest until the 20th of the month, when there was a sharp reaction to cooler weather in the central valleys. Thereafter a small area in the Southwest continued warm, but in other sections, especially the Northern States, abnormally cool weather prevailed. The last ten days of the month had decidedly subnormal temperatures in the Central and Northern States, with considerable frost in exposed places in northern districts.

The accompanying table shows the departure of temperature from normal for the month in certain districts. From the Potomac Valley northward and from the upper Mississippi Valley eastward the average temperature was below normal, except in

the extreme northeast. In other sections east of the Mississippi River a little more than normal warmth prevailed. In other sections the monthly mean temperatures were abnormally high, especially in the Central States between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains, where the excesses above normal ranged from 4° to 8°.

Rainfall during August was above normal in most sections east of the Mississippi Valley, except from the Lake region eastward over northern New York to and including all of New England. Missouri and Oklahoma had abnormally heavy rainfall, but in other sections between the Mississippi River and Rocky Mountains and in the northern Great Basin and most of the Pacific Northwest the falls were generally scanty.

The driest areas were in the Southwest, principally in Texas; also in the central and northern Great Plains and the interior of the Pacific Northwest. During the first three days of September there were widespread, generous rains in nearly all parts of the central valleys and Great Plains, except in the extreme northern Plains and locally in the Southwest.

District	Month of Aug.		Week Ending Sept. 4		Sept. 5		Sept. 6	
	Temp.	Rain	Temp.	Rain	Temp.	Rain	Temp.	Rain
Southern Maine	-2	50	60	.3	69	.04	70	.0
Western New York	-2	75-100	61	.5	73	.26	70	.0
Tri-States	-1	100-150	67	.8	78	.0	72	.0
S. Cent. Ohio	+2	75-100	68	.0	61	.02	68	.0
Central Indiana	+2	100	68	.2	61	.0	70	.0
Central Illinois	+2	75-100	67	2.4	65	.0	72	.94
N. Ill., S. Wis.	-1	75-100	65	1.2	64	.0	59	.3
S. Minnesota	0	50-75	64	1.0	64	.0	58	.0
Central Iowa	+2	50	65	2.8	70	.0	58	.06
W. Iowa, E. Nebr.	+4	25-50	60	1.1	72	.0	67	.0

Temperature in degrees and rainfall in inches, except for month of August, where temperature is expressed in degrees above normal and rainfall as a percentage of normal.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE MARKET COMPETITION

Commodity	Week ending Aug. 25, 1934		Week ending Sept. 1, 1934		Total for season 1934	
						1933
Beans, snap and lima	37		17	11	12,332	10,029
Tomatoes	73		168	161	20,675	18,240
Green pens	114		134	125	5,476	7,390
All other vegetables—						
Domestic:						
Competing directly	2,580		2,244	2,583	133,342	118,270
Competing indirectly	20		22	12	206	147
Imports, competing indirectly	6		21	5	31	8
Fruits:						
Citrus, Domestic	1,306		1,304	1,247	118,218	118,508
Imports	12		51	26	102	44
Others, Domestic	4,862		4,019	5,603	71,589	52,745
Imports	4		1	0	8	0
Index of fresh vegetable prices	68		68	65
Index of canned vegetable prices	86		86	67

SHRIMP PACK

The shrimp pack for the week ended August 29 amounted to 58,371 cases, according to the Shrimp Section of the National Canners Association, of which 3,800 cases were packed on the East Coast, 43,881 in Alabama and Louisiana, 8,190 in Mississippi, and 2,500 in Texas. From August 2 to August 29, the pack has amounted to 152,445 cases.

VARIANCE IN EXTENT OF RETAIL SALES DECLINE

While a decline of 47.7 per cent in retail sales in the United States is recorded for 1933 in the Census of American Business as compared with 1929, the effect of the depression as reflected in retail sales was felt much less in some states than in others. A comparison of the preliminary returns recently issued by the Census Bureau shows that the percentage decline ranged from 30.1 per cent for the District of Columbia to 66 per cent in Mississippi, with 22 states and the District of Columbia showing a decline of less than the United States average.

The number of retail stores in operation dropped only 1.5 per cent in the four-year period, and in 22 states the number actually increased.

The final returns for the retail census of Maryland in 1933 reveal a significant change in the relative importance of food stores, restaurants, filling stations, drug stores, and general merchandise stores in comparison with all other kinds of retail business in the four-year period. These business classifications have increased in importance, relative to total consumer-sales, whereas apparel stores, furniture, lumber, hardware, and other stores all show losses out of proportion to the total decrease in the four-year period.

The food group, which in 1929 accounted for 27.1 per cent of total sales of the state, has advanced to 30.6 per cent in relative importance. Restaurants, which in 1929 accounted for 2.7 per cent of sales, now show, with drinking places, nearly 5 per cent of total retail sales.

Although apparel stores dropped from 7.4 per cent to 6.2 per cent of the total, the general merchandise group, which includes department stores, dry goods, general merchandise, variety (five-and-ten and to-a-dollar) stores, increased in about the same degree, having advanced from 16.2 per cent to 17.3 per cent of total retail sales.

REPRINTS OF VITAMIN ARTICLE DISTRIBUTED

Reprints of the article from Industrial and Engineering Chemistry entitled "Vitamins in Canned Foods—XIV, Calcium

and Vitamin D in Foods" have been mailed to members of the Association, along with a reprint of an editorial appearing in the Journal of the American Medical Association for August 11. The article was briefly summarized in the Information Letter for August 25. The type for the reprints is still standing and should canners desire additional copies they may be obtained at a nominal price by communicating with the N. C. A. office.

ANNUAL FISHERY INDUSTRIES REVIEW ISSUED

"Fishery Industries of the United States, 1933" has been issued by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries, furnishing detailed statistics of the domestic fisheries for 1932 and including reviews of the fishery technological investigations and market surveys conducted during 1933. The publication may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., for 15 cents.

STRICT INSPECTION OF CANNED FOODS ENTERING PHILIPPINES

The Manila Collector of Customs, at the suggestion of the Director of the Philippine Health Service, has ordered a careful inspection of all canned foods entering the islands, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce. The action was taken as a result of reports of the alleged poor quality of certain food products recently shipped to the Philippine Islands.

GOOD PIMENTO CROP EXPECTED IN SPAIN

Present indications are that the 1934 production of pimientos for canning in Spain as a whole, will be good and much above the quantity actually canned from the 1933 crop, according to information furnished to the U. S. Department of Commerce by the office of the agricultural attache at Paris, France. The acreage planted is not only larger this season but so far growing conditions have been favorable, so excellent yields of good quality fruit are now in prospect.

AUSTRALIAN STATE TO DISPOSE OF GOVERNMENT CANNING ENTERPRISE

It is the policy of the present New South Wales government to dispose of state industrial enterprises, and for some time negotiations have been proceeding with a view to inducing settlers on the Murrumbidgee irrigation area in New South Wales to take over the factory at Leeton, which is state owned and cans all fruit from that area, according to the American trade commissioner at Sydney. The proposal is that the three cooperative societies at Griffith, Yenda and Leeton (all situated

in the Murrumbidgee irrigation area) should take the cannery over at the end of three years, the New South Wales Irrigation Commission in the meantime carrying on and paying prices fixed by the sugar concession committee.

"HOLD THAT CAN, PLEASE"

Under the title, "Hold That Can, Please," Elizabeth Frazer has written for the September issue of *Good Housekeeping* one of the best articles on the canning industry and canned foods that has appeared in women's magazines. The author obtained her facts first hand on a coast-to-coast trip to survey food industries, during which time she visited factories, interviewed health officials, talked with dealers and consumers, in short, followed the food from the raw material to the finished product as it reaches the home. The facts are set down as she found them, and they make a story that is certainly informative to the consumer and gratifying to the industry.

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS OF FISHERY PRODUCTS

Cold storage holdings of fishery products in the United States on August 15 were 39 per cent more than a year ago and 5 per cent over the five-year average, according to the Bureau of Fisheries.

Holdings on August 15 amounted to 62,577,000 pounds, compared with 44,882,000 pounds on August 15, 1933, and the five-year average of 59,558,000 pounds.

During the 30 days ended August 15, 17,348,000 pounds of fishery products were frozen, compared with 15,550,000 pounds frozen in the corresponding period of 1933, the report stated.

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